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SUBJECT Airfield West of Saratov

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SOURCE

Paragraphs 1 and 2: PW No 2691, who was detained in PW Camps No 7238/10 and 7238/11 and made his observations between October 1948 and May 1949 while constructing apartments for generals.
Paragraphs 3 and 4: PW No 1112, who was interned in PW Camp No 7238/22 and made his observations between 1948 and August 1949 from various places of work.

1. The airfield is located approximately 10 km west of Saratov (51°34'N/46° 02'E), Saratov Oblast, north or south of the road leading to Balonosga, approximately 3 km from a radio installation which was seen from a distance. Wooden houses, summer billets for generals, were located between the field and the radio installation. The field could not be seen from the construction site. *

2. From the take-offs and landings observed it was inferred that the field was occupied by jet aircraft which made only individual flights. The planes were jet fighters with swept-back wings and a single-seater cockpit. They were of the same type as the planes seen on the Saratov factory airfield. **

3. The military airfield was located on a plateau west of Saratov. Two large angle towers were also on the plateau.

4. The field has been occupied since 1948 by approximately 11 jet aircraft and some planes of another type. PWs said that the jet planes were parked at the field for eight months but were not flown. The aircraft made practice flights almost daily since the spring of 1949. **

* For location of airfield, see USAF Target Complex Chart Saratov 0235-9999-100. The pin-point location of the field cannot be determined from previous reports. Balonosga is not entered on available maps. The radio installation north of the field was reported by [   ]. The airfield was reconstructed and improved after 1945. In December 1945, at least one runway, eight hangars and one repair hangar were on the field.

** [   ] The information confirms the occupation of the field by jet fighters with swept-back wings. [   ] It is believed that the airfield was occupied by one fighter unit which was re-equipped with jet aircraft in the summer of 1949.

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